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Attachments: Initial Safety Orientation Presentation_v2.pptx

Tropical Storm Harvey 2017

Initial Safety Briefing





Overview

- Driving
- Heat Stress
- Field Operations
- Insects/Wildlife
- Personal Hygiene
- Fatigue/CISM
- Accountability/Communications
- Information Resources

Driving Hazards





Driving

- Drive defensively
- Don't tailgate, especially when following trucks, as their loads may not be properly secured.
- Watch out for debris, oil, pedestrians, etc. Have fix-a-flat in your car just in case.
- Bring maps or GPS but don't use them while driving.



Driving Continued

- If Traffic Lights are not working, remember the intersection becomes a 4 way STOP.
- Debris piles may block sight of pedestrians and cars



Heat Stress

- Heat indices often exceed 100
- Wear light loose fitting clothing
- POPC! - 1 Gatorade to 2 Waters
- Stay in the shade when possible
- Know the warning signs & listen to your body.
- Keep an eye on fellow workers
- Acclimation



Don't forget to put on sunscreen!

- Put sunscreen on first thing when you get to a work site if you will be working outdoors.
- Reapply at your Lunch Break





Field Operations

- Report safety concerns to the Safety Officer.
- Safety is everyone's responsibility.
- Consider yourself empowered to stop unsafe acts.



Field Operations Continued

- Bring the right equipment!
 - A list of emergency numbers (See ICS Form 206)
 - Maps and GPS
 - Water - POPC!
 - Level-D PPE: Hard hat, Steel-toe boots (steel insoles provided for EPA field personnel), Long pants, Safety vest, Eye protection
 - First Aid Kit
 - Multiple forms of communication
 - Medical contacts and locations (See ICS Form 206)



Structurally Unsound Buildings

Do Not Enter
Buildings until
Determined
Structurally Sound





Power Lines

- Don't go near water or debris where power lines are down or possibly impacted.
- Residents are hard wiring their generators into their house wiring and energizing the lines outside of their house.





Other Hazards?

What do you think you may be exposed to?



Unknowns, cylinders, drums and other containers



Do not touch compressed gas cylinders until they have been inspected by someone qualified to clear them.



Debris

- Debris may contain hazardous materials.
- Wear boots with composite/steel toes and steel inserts.
- Don't walk on top of debris piles.
- Use tools to move debris to avoid critters!
- Do not bring ignition sources close to debris piles (NO SMOKING!!)





Mold

- Mold in buildings that have been flooded is a health hazard. Be sure to wear appropriate PPE. Try not to move any objects or stir up debris in houses.
- Do not enter buildings unless buildings are deemed structurally sound and appropriate air monitoring has been conducted. Decon after entry.





Dust

- As flood waters recede and sediment dries, dust has become more of a hazard.
- Some initial data suggests that nuisance dust levels exceed recommended limits
- Safety glasses and appropriate PPE as needed
- If possible, avoid dusty areas
- Keep window's up, set AC to re-circulate inside air



Staph Infection

- Caused by the bacteria *Staphylococcus aureus*. Many healthy people carry staph bacteria in their noses without getting sick.
- Small cuts can become a serious issue!
- You can help prevent yourself from developing a staph infection with regular hand washing, keeping your skin clean with a daily bath, and keeping areas that have been cut clean and covered.



Heavy Equipment

- Operators have large blind spots while in large equipment
- You need to watch out for wide swings
- Always maintain eye contact with the operator, NEVER walk behind equipment!
- WEAR APPROPRIATE PPE (vests, safety glasses, hardhat, steel toes and inserts, etc)



Air Operations

- Bring the right equipment
- Headset will be provided
- Listen carefully to the Crew Chief or Pilot in Command.
- You will get a safety briefing prior to departure
- Keep your head down, do not approach while hot
- Be prepared for a bumpy ride





Gators

- They grow 'em big in these parts! Alligators are attracted to splashing noises and have a very good sense of smell (even under water like sharks). They are excellent ambush artists and can run at speeds up to 40mph for short distances.
- Stay away from large swamps and standing water in rural areas unless you are with someone with experience and knowledge of gator activities.





Stray Pets and Animals

- Tropical Storm Harvey has separated pets from their homes.
- Avoid stray dogs. Even if they look friendly.
- Return to your car, truck... and call the local law enforcement
- If bitten seek immediate medical treatment (call 911, or proceed to local medical facility)



Mosquitoes

- The Texas State bird!
- There is ample supply of insect repellent...USE IT!
- Wear pants in the field; long sleeve shirts if not too hot
- West Nile virus (WNV) is predominant in coastal areas
- WNV is an illness transmitted to humans primarily by mosquitoes. In most cases, persons infected with WNV either show no symptoms or have very mild flu-like symptoms. Mild cases of WNF normally last only a few days and do not cause any long-term effects. Severe cases have resulted in West Nile encephalitis, an inflammation of the membrane around the brain.



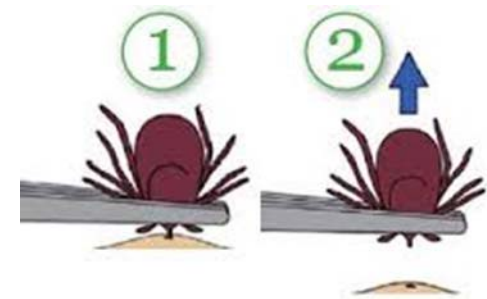
Mosquitoes

- Zika is another illness transmitted to humans primarily by mosquitoes. In most cases, persons infected with Zika either show no symptoms or have very mild symptoms including headache, fever, headache, red eyes, rash, and muscle and joint pain lasting a few days.
- Zika can also be transmitted sexually or from a pregnant woman to her fetus causing birth defects.
- There is ample supply of insect repellent...USE IT!



Ticks

- There are six reportable tick-borne illnesses in Texas: babesiosis, ehrlichiosis (including anaplasmosis), Lyme disease, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, tularemia, and tick-borne relapsing fever.
- How to remove a tick
 - Use fine-tipped tweezers to grasp the tick as close to the skin's surface as possible.
 - Pull upward with steady, even pressure. ...
 - After removing the tick, thoroughly clean the bite area and your hands with rubbing alcohol, an iodine scrub, or soap and water.
- There is ample supply of insect repellent...USE IT!





Blood Borne Pathogens



- Assume all body fluids you come in contact with are infectious.
- Protect yourself using good work practices & PPE e.g. gloves, goggles, mouth protection, face shields.
- There is a blood borne pathogens medical plan.



Personal Hygiene

- Maintain your personal hygiene
- Individuals may neglect their personal hygiene under stressful conditions
- Frequently wash your hands, especially before you eat



Fatigue

- Individuals are working very long hours.
- Get rest when you can



Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM)

- EPA Team for Stress Management
- Peer Support for OSCs/EPA Personnel
- CISM Tips
 - Talking is the most healing medicine
 - Spend time with others
 - Get plenty of rest
 - Eat well-balanced meals regularly



Accountability/Communications

- Use the Buddy System
- Let your supervisor know where you are
- Have multiple means of communication available
- Attend all required meetings and safety briefings
- Use common sense



Information Resources

- The IAP
- Situation report
- Verify information! You are now playing in an elaborate game of “Telephone”.



The Incident Action Plan (IAP)

- Carry a copy with you in the field!
- Read Safety messages and Information
- Review weather forecast
- Review specific ICS-204 work assignments
- Review Medical Plan and locate nearest EMT or Hospital
- Review Communication plan

QUESTIONS??

